

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases**GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:****CURRENT STATUS:**Librarians' Index to the Internet (lii.org)

Karen G. Schneider, coordinator of lii.org, reports that the third quarter continued a period of strong growth and positive change for lii.org. An online course for indexers was designed and is now offered through the Infopeople project; on the ground courses are offered as well. Changes to the database were carefully tested throughout the quarter and implemented. New Board members were recruited and a Web designer hired.

lii.org has created three special topic pages that have proved very popular. Black History Month (Exhibit A) received praise from the Black Librarians' Caucus of the California Library Association. Tax Time 2002 (Exhibit B) was mentioned by ResearchBuzz, an Internet research site targeted to librarians. Grapes of Web (Exhibit C) supports the California Stories: Reading *The Grapes of Wrath* program.

The size of the lii.org database continues to grow. Staff and volunteers have focused on growth in content as the single most important factor in increasing successful searches by users. Usage of the database nearly doubled from the previous quarter. There is some concern about the impact of this increase on network resources. Options to handle this increase are being explored by lii.org staff, the Advisory Board and CSL staff. The weekly newsletter, *liiweek*, (Exhibit D) now has a readership of over 13,000 subscribers.



Staff met with the lii.org coordinator and Steve Mitchell of INFOMINE (<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>) to discuss areas where the two services could collaborate and share resources. Although INFOMINE is targeted to the academic library user and provides university level research and educational tools, some overlap does exist with lii.org. Discussions will continue on how best to coordinate activity and plan for future developments.

Cooperative Licensing Services

Amigos-Now, a specially formatted version of Amigos Library Services' newsletter targeted to Library of California members, is now being distributed by email subscription. Recent issues highlighted offers from ebrary™, LexisNexis, AccessScience, Gale Group and Serials Solutions.

Staff from Amigos Library Services are planning a series of meetings within each of the seven regions to better acquaint libraries with the cooperative licensing services and other discounts offered by Amigos to Library of California members.

Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database

Staff continues to evaluate the usefulness of the database and alternate courses of action to prepare the database to conform to new input standards required from the University of California, California Digital Library (CDL). The existing database will continue to be available through June 2003.

The MINITEX Library Information Network of Minnesota has completed an evaluation of its union serials list and staff is analyzing their results and procedures. Their report is available at:

(<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/messenger/supp0302-2.pdf>).

Our questions regarding the LoC P/SD are similar:

- What should be the role of the LoC P/SD be in an information environment influenced strongly by LoC and CLSA regional catalogs and resource sharing systems?
- Has the widespread availability of full text sources lessened the need for a union serials listing?
- Does technology now offer alternatives sufficient to fill the database's primary role as the source for holdings information about the serials owned by libraries in California?

A survey of users of the periodical database has been created in collaboration with staff from the University of California, California Digital Library, and is in progress. The survey is offered during use of the database. Results from the survey will be analyzed and communicated in a future report. Notice about the survey will be made to all Library of California members.

An additional survey will be created and distributed to those libraries that contribute to the LoC P/SD to evaluate the need for continued access, options for access (OCLC, CDL, regional or statewide gateway, or combination), and the need for off-line products (microfiche, paper reports). Staff will continue discussions with vendors to evaluate products and services that could be used to meet the need for a union list

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray

